



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

POWELL, G. H. *Coöperation in Agriculture*. Pp. xv, 327. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

The coöperative movement in American agriculture has advanced only far enough to raise the question why it has gone no further, and the doubt whether a development here of coöperation comparable, for example, with coöperation in Denmark is reasonably to be hoped for. There are, in Mr. Powell's enumeration, associations of cattle-breeders, predominantly advisory and educational, grain elevator associations, which have been quite generally successful but thus far not uniting into central organizations; coöperative creameries, whose members are said generally to have no understanding of the fundamental principles of coöperation; cotton-farmers, who maintain coöperatively small neighborhood storage houses, but still lacking "a comprehensive system of credit and a system of marketing and distribution." The best developed organization here described is the California Fruit Growers Exchange, which supervises the work of the orchards and employs sales agents, giving information as to markets and prices, but leaving the individual shipper free as to prices and terms of sale. Our farmers have nowhere shown the capacity for joint action and the tolerance of democratic restraint exhibited in some European countries.

A purpose of coöperation not second in importance is a regulation of the particular industry, possible only by concerted action (forbidding the sale of damaged fruit, for example, preventing methods likely to result in damage to the fruit, etc). No system described in the book before us serves this purpose better than the purchase of eggs at a certain private creamery. The sellers are compelled to sign an agreement which would obviate the characteristic evils of the egg business, much as a coöperative association might lay down rules in the same matter. In that neighborhood the price of eggs has increased, because the quality has improved; the farmers have learned that it is profitable to keep poultry of good stock; even the local grocers are reconciled to losing the trade in eggs because the farmers have now a larger power of purchasing groceries. Though this creamery is private, it is "essentially coöperative," in that its owner and manager is a far-sighted business man, . . . content to take a small profit and to pay as liberally as possible for both cream and eggs.

Such cases as this suggest strikingly the possibility that merely a greater enlightenment on the part of middlemen might perhaps go far toward bringing order into our chaotic trade in agricultural products instead of the coöperative method for which the disposition has thus far seemed generally lacking.

Mr. Powell's discussion of the theoretical basis of coöperation is intelligent, though one must doubt his authority on matters of general economics when he assures us that the formation of labor unions has almost eliminated competition among laborers (p. 3).

A. P. WINSTON.

Pearre, Md.